



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association
26th January 2018 at St Mary's Supporters Club
Meeting Opened at 20:00

Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by our Chairman, Michael Hobden.

Members Present: Michael Hobden, Peter Godding, Peter Wyatt, Darryl Twinch, Colin Kemp, Mick Bird, Mick Norris, Mark Harding, Jack Neil, David Harding, Lee Harding, Brian Walter, Brian Cager, Ray Metcalfe and Sgt Mark Jones.

Apologies for Absence: Michael Taylor, Doug Raynsford, Alan South, Sean Kelly, Peter Crowhurst and Steve Winter.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed all Members to the AGM and wished all a Happy New Year. Michael also welcomed Sgt Mark Jones from 43 Bty.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp provided all Members present with a copy of the 2017 Accounts showing all income and expenditure which will be submitted the RAA HQ. Cash in the bank as at 31/12/2017 is £

Colin also advised that our Branch have to pay the subscription for the WebMaster for 2018 which is £2.50 per Active Member. As with last year, this will be paid out of the Branch funds.

The 2017 Accounts were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Peter Godding. Carried.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for the Meeting held on 27th October 2017. With no comments advised, the October 2017 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Brian Cager and seconded by Mick Norris. Carried.
2. The Committee and Members were asked if any changes were to be made to the current Committee. Mark advised that he had spoken to Michael Taylor previously who wished to stay on the Committee as a Committee Member.

Colin Kemp advised that if another Member wished to take over the role of Treasurer, he would stand down but is happy to remain if not.

All current Committee Members advised that they were happy to continue in their current role which was also agreed by the Members.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

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The Committee therefore reads as follows:

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Vice Chairman: Peter Godding

Secretary: Mark Harding

Standard Bearer: Darryl Twinch

Committee of Four: Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter and Mick Taylor

The Committee Members were voted in unanimously enblock. Carried.

3. Mark advised that the RAA Annual Returns are now due and he would complete and send them to RAA HQ.
4. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events including the RA Assembly for all Members to read.
5. Mark advised all Members regarding the fantastic feedback received from the general public, other Associations and the Mayor of Lewes for our Branches support leading to and attending Armistice Day and Remembrance Parade including the Sentinels provided by 43 Bty. Our thanks goes out to everyone involved for making these such a success.

Mark also advised that he, Michael Taylor and Jack Neil attended an invite from the Mayor of Lewes to attend a Reception at the Council Chamber on 16th January as a thank you for all the hard work put into Remembrance Sunday. Special thanks goes to all Members who helped in this Parade on the day and leading up to it and a specific thank you to WO2 Gavin Cook of 43 Bty for providing the Sentinels for the Parade.

6. Jack, Darryl and Colin provided details of the Edward Reeves Archive Event which seemed to have been a great success.
7. Jack provided feedback with regards to the missing names situation on the War Memorial. It seems that Rocket FM were unable to move this any further forward.
8. Mark thanked all those who attended the Christmas Dinner at the White Hart and all Members said they thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the venue.
9. Annual Dinner. The venue and date was discussed for our Branch Annual Dinner. It was put to the Members and unanimously agreed that this should take place on Saturday 26th May 2018 at the White Hart. Mark will liaise with them to start the ball rolling. Menus and costs will be provided soonest. It was agreed that we would invite the BC of 43 Bty as our Guest of Honour. Michael Hobden will send invite.
10. Mark also asked Members if we would like to continue to have an official Christmas Dinner, as we did last year. All Members were in favor of this and again agreed that this should be at the White Hart. Mark will contact them to seek available dates and will revert back to Members accordingly.
11. Annual Summer Event. Mark asked Members if we would like to arrange a Summer Event this year. The consensus was that Members would like to visit 43 Bty in some capacity. Mark said he would liaise with the BSM and revert back soonest. Sgt Mark Jones also advised that he will discuss this feedback with the BSM.
12. The Branch would like to thank Lee Harding for arranging our Branch lapel pins. These are now in stock. Darryl proposed that each Branch Member be provided one pin free of charge which was agreed. Any Members wishing to purchase more pins, please speak to Mark and they are £2.50 each.

Mark also propose that we should provide the BC, BSM and Sgt Jones with one which was also agreed.

13. We then handed over to Sgt Mark Jones who provided us with an update of the Battery. Sgt Jones advised that now after Christmas leave, the Battery are preparing for Training. Soldier 1st Training (Field Training) commenced in November 2017. Movement to Sennybridge in February for Field Training at CT Level 1 - Exercise on airfield with Vehicles and Watchkeeper. If this goes well then move on to Level 2 & 3.

Sgt Jones advised that it is essential to prove Watchkeeper and the equipment to be able to use it operationally. This Training will take the Bty up to June 2018.

Sgt Jones also mentioned that the current BSM is handing over in April 2018.

AOB:

1. Jack mentioned possible available tickets for Trooping the Colour. Please contact Jack should anyone require tickets as he only has limited supplies. They are £10.00 each. This year's event will take place on 2nd June 2018.
2. Darryl expressed his thanks to all Members who attended his Father's funeral.
3. Mark advised all Members that are also Members of the Sussex Yeomanry Association of the sad passing of John Burch. 29 Fd RA 257/200. Members wishing to attend his funeral, please contact Mark for the details.
4. Mark advised that some Members attended the Combined Services Dinner at the Green Man on 9th December and was a great success. Thanks to Jack for organising this as always.

With no other business, the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:20.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 23rd February 2018 at St Marys Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start.
Dress: Casual.

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